



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Geoffrey B. Rhoads

Application No.: 09/916,207

Filed: July 25, 2001

For: HIDING ENCRYPTED MESSAGES IN
INFORMATION CARRIERS

Examiner:

Date: April 10, 2002

Art Unit: 2621
Confirmation No.: 8083

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment and all documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on April 10, 2002, as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON D.C. 20231.

St SL
Steven W. Stewart
Attorney for Applicant

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, DC 20231

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Prior to examination on the merits please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new claims 12-16 as follows.

--12 (New) A method of hiding a message in an information carrier comprising:

encrypting a message;

modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;

scaling said modulated encrypted message; and

adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier.

A1